

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 04705 060707Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
 ICA-11 (ISO) W
 -----082451 060930Z /13

R 060642Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5451
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRA PEPR PL IS EG
SUBJ: RUMORS OF POSSIBLE POLISH-ISRAEL ECONOMIC AGREEMENT;
 POLISH-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS REMAIN COOL

REF: WARSAW 4662 (NOTAL)

1. BOTH EGYPTIAN MINISTER-COUNSELOR NAHAD RIAD AND FIRST
SECRETARY NABIL OSMAN (PLEASE PROTECT BOTH) IN RECENT DAYS HAVE
RELAYED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE POLISH-ISRAELI
BREAKTHROUGH ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT. OSMAN SAID THAT, ACCORDING
TO WELL-INFORMED GOP SOURCES, THE POLES ARE CONTEMPLATING ENTERING
INTO A SIGNIFICANT COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WITH TEL AVIV THIS FALL,
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PERHAPS IN OCTOBER. SPECIFICS ON THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT ARE NOT
KNOWN.

2. RIAD COMMENTED JUNE 1 THAT, DESPITE THE PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED
ECONOMIC RELATIONS, A DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGH WITH ISRAEL STILL
APPEARS A LONG WAY OFF AT THIS STAGE. RIAD VOLUNTEERED THAT
POLISH-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS REMAIN COOL. HE CITED NEGATIVE POLISH

PRESS COVERAGE OF THE RECENT EGYPTIAN REFERENDUM IN THIS CONNECTION.

3. COMMENT: RIAD'S APPRAISAL REGARDING POLISH-ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC PROSPECTS SQUARES WITH THE COMMON VIEW HERE (WHICH WE SHARE) THAT POLAND COULD NOT REOPEN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TEL AVIV UNTIL MOSCOW DID SO, OR AT LEAST CONCURRED. THE POLES, HOWEVER, HAVE SHOWN CLEAR SIGNS OF WANTING TO PUT THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH ISRAEL ON A BETTER FOOTING SHORT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION. NOTEWORTHY RECENT EXAMPLES WERE THE GOP INVITATIONS TO ISRAELI CITIZENS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS OUTSIDE POLAND TO ATTEND THE OPENING OF THE JEWISH PAVILION AT AUSCHWITZ, AND THE POLISH MEDIA ATTENTION, UNPRECEDENTED IN RECENT YEARS, TO THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1943 WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING.

4. RIAD'S REMARK ABOUT THE COOL STATE OF POLISH-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS ALSO CONFIRMS OUR PRIOR IMPRESSIONS. PRESS COMMENT ON THE REFERENDUM WAS QUITE HARD; TRYBUNA LUDU HEADLINED THAT THE REFERENDUM SANCTIONED REPRESSION AGAINST PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN EGYPT AND ECHOED A SYRIAN PAPER'S COMMENT THAT IT ALSO REPRESENTED THE PRELUDE TO A SEPARATE PEACE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL. END COMMENT.

SCHAUFELE

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